THE TATSUI DRAGON GOD FESTIVAL?

YES.

DOES THAT MEAN THIS TOWN HOLDS A REVERENCE FOR A DRAGON?

PRE-PARING ONIGIRI

OH, THE TINY LITTLE FESTIVAL.

YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT? IT'S HELD EVERY YEAR AT THE CENTER OF THE SHOPPING DISTRICT.

A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN THIS TOWN WAS STILL A VILLAGE, THE DRAGON GOD BECAME ANGRY BECAUSE HUMANS ENCROACH ON ITS HOME. THE DRAGON GOD THEN CAUSED A DISASTER.

THE FESTIVAL WAS CREATED TO ENSHRINE AND APPEASE THE DRAGON GOD.

SO THERE WAS A DRAGON THAT DID NAUGHTY THINGS JUST BECAUSE A VILLAGE WAS ESTABLISHED.

OH...

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO START PREPARING FOR THE FESTIVAL.

ANYWAY ...

ARE YOU MAKING A COMPARISON BETWEEN ME AND SOME-ONE ELSE?

IT'S WAY BEYOND THE SCOPE OF NAUGHTY.

THERE WAS A PROPOSAL TO MAKE THE FESTIVAL BIGGER THAN USUAL.

SINCE THE DRAGON GOD HELPED SAVE GEN'S SUSHI RESTAURANT...

HELP HOW?

EH, WHAT DO YOU MEAN...

ALSO, IT'S ILSELA.

PLEASE HELP US.

BUBUSELA.

THE NUMBER OF CUS-TOMERS HAS SETTLED DOWN.

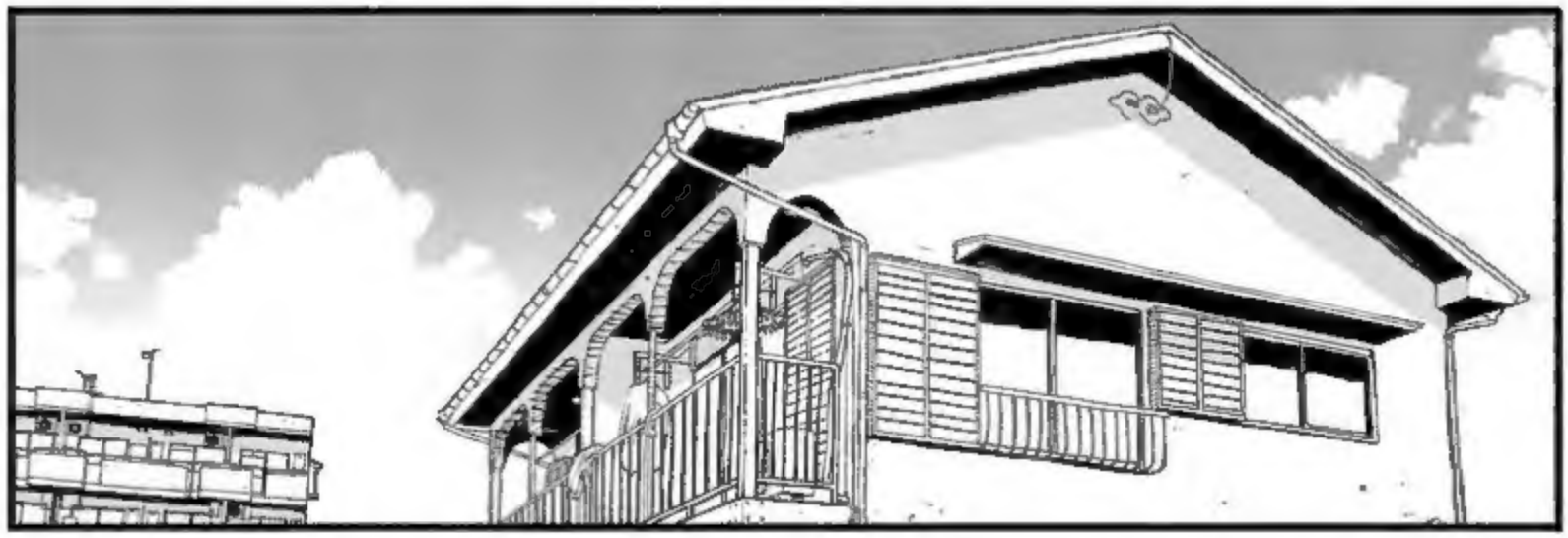
BUT, WHAT ABOUT THE STORE!!

THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH THIS DISTRICT OF ELDERLY PEOPLE CAN DO.

YOU'RE BIG AND STRONG, RIGHT?

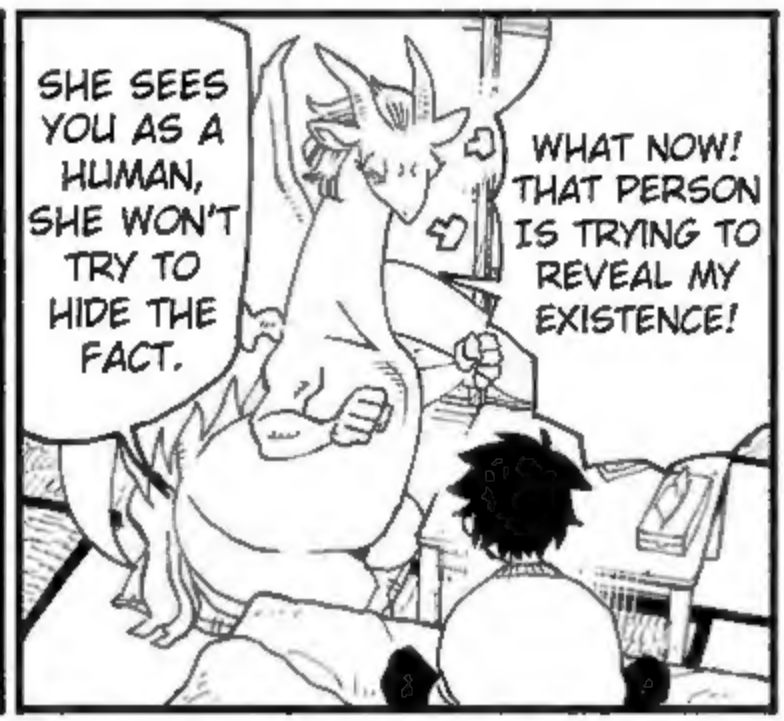
WE WILL SEE YOU AT THE MEETING TOMORROW.

I'VE ALREADY TOLD EVERYONE YOU WILL BE HELPING OUT.



WILL BE EXPOSED!
MY EXISTENCE!

I CAN'T JUST GO OUT AND HELP THEM.
WHY NOT TURN HER DOWN? YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO TO THE FESTIVAL ANYWAY.


SHE SEES YOU AS A HUMAN, SHE WON'T TRY TO HIDE THE FACT.
WHAT NOW! THAT PERSON IS TRYING TO REVEAL MY EXISTENCE!

SHE HAS HUMAN NATURE?

I'M INDEBTED TO HER, SO I'D HATE TO NOT HELP OUT.

THAT'S PEAK SELFISH-NESS...

NO, I WANT TO SEE THE FESTIVAL!

OKAY.

IN THE MEANTIME, FIGURE OUT A WAY SO THAT YOU WON'T BE EXPOSED.

I WILL SEE WHAT THEY WANT YOUR HELP WITH BEFORE DECIDING WHAT TO DO.

I WILL HANDLE THE MEETING.

I'M BACK.

THE NEXT DAY

GROOOOSS.

HUFF

PEACE
ピース☆

HUFF

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LOOK, MURAKAMI.

THERE'S A FINGER AT THE TIP OF YOUR WINGS!!

UWAH!

IT'S A STOPGAP MEASURE.

I TRIED TO SEE IF I COULD TRANSFORM INTO A HUMAN, BUT I WAS ONLY SUCCESSFUL WITH MY ARMS.

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SO, HOW DID THE MEETING GO?

960

I CAN'T BECAUSE IT'S RATHER UNSTABLE.

STOP SHOW-ING IT OFF.

TURN BACK TO NORMAL AT ONCE!

I WAS SOMEHOW ABLE TO BEG THEM.

WE'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO A TASK THAT'S JUST THE TWO OF US.

!!

THEN...

960

I MADE IT SEEM LIKE YOU WERE EXTREMELY SHY.

AT FIRST ...

HOW DID YOU PERSUADE THEM?

I ENDED UP GETTING ROPED INTO IT THOUGH.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HELP THE OTHERS.

THEY HAVE A REALLY DISTORTED IMPRESSION OF ME...

THERE'S NO OTHER WAY THEN

A SHY PERSON THAT'S FULLY WHITE?

LITTLE CHUBBY, LONG NECK, AND ALL WHITE

HOWEVER, WHEN GRANNY DESCRIBED WHAT YOU LOOKED LIKE, THEY ACCEPTED IT AT ONCE.

960

WHAT HAPPENED TO BEING INDEBTED FOR THE ONIGIRI...

SINCE YOU DECIDED TO HELP OUT AS WELL...

DOES THAT MEAN I DON'T HAVE TO GO?

WE WERE ASKED TO CLEAN THE DRAGON GOD AND DECORATE THE MIKOSHI FOR THE TIME BEING.

THERE'S ALSO WORK FOR ME PERSONALLY.

TODAY, WE'RE CLEANING THE DRAGON GOD STATUE AT THIS SHRINE.

IT SEEMS LIKE THE MIKOSHI GOES AROUND HERE DURING THE FESTIVAL.

YOU HAVE A MAGNIFICENT STATUE, LUCKY YOU.

SOMEONE IS COMING AROUND NOON FOR AN INSPECTION, SO WE BETTER FINISH BEFORE THEN.

THIS TYPE OF DRAGON IS MORE LIKE A SPIRIT.

I FIND IT DUBIOUS TO EVEN LABEL THEM AS DRAGONS.

YEAH, IT'S SO LAME TO NOT HAVE WINGS, RIGHT?

I DIDN'T SAY THAT.

COME TO THINK OF IT, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE BOTH DRAGONS, YOU TWO ARE NOTHING ALIKE.

380j

THEY'RE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SPECIES FROM A DISTANT PART OF MY WORLD.

OH...

380j

WHAT, YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?

THEN, IT EXISTS?!

HUH?

THERE ARE DRAGONS LIKE THIS IN YOUR WORLD?!

THIS IS LIKE A CHARACTER FROM A FAIRY TALE...

THERE ARE.

YOU DON'T HAVE A SHRED OF FANTASY IN YOU ANYMORE.

YOU DOUBT IT EVEN THO I'M HERE?

HEY!

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IT MUST BE DRAMATIZED. I DOUBT IT STAYED HERE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

IF WONDER IF GRANNY'S STORY IS TRUE.

奉納

MORNING! THE STAIRS ARE TOUGH AT THIS AGE.

UM, GOOD MORNING, GEN.

I WAS FREE, SO I FIGURED I SHOULD COME A BIT EARLIER TO TAKE A LOOK.

YOU'RE ALONE?

UM...

WHERE'S BUBUSELA?

HM?

!?

RIGHT HERE.

RI...

I'M IN TROUBLE BECAUSE I HAVE TOO MUCH FREE TIME AFTER THE FIRE, HAHAHA.

A TYPE OF HUMOR THAT'S HARD TO REACT TO.

I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE.

OH! MY APOLOGIES, I FORGOT THAT YOU'RE SHY.

IS HE GONE?

.....

YES.

I WILL COME CHECK ON YOU WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT DONE, BYE.

SEE YOU.

I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO THINK THAT I'M SLACKING OFF!

YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.

IT CAME IN HANDY IN AN UNEXPECTED WAY.

I COULD'VE FOOLED HIM BY SAYING YOU WENT TO THE RESTROOM.

HOW DID YOU REVERT LAST TIME?

IT WENT BACK TO NORMAL AFTER SOME TIME.

AS I SAID BEFORE, I DON'T KNOW HOW.

HURRY UP AND CHANGE BACK.

IT DEPLETES A LOT OF MANA AS WELL.

I CAN'T MAINTAIN ...

THE SHAPE.

IT'S REALLY UNSTABLE AFTER ALL.

THAT'S SCARY.

YOU'RE LIKE THE GUY IN AKIRA!

THAT'S GROSS.

WHAT ARE YOU...

EEEEEK, IT WON'T STOP!!

KYAAAH!

AAAAAH!

CAN'T YOU DO SOME-THING WITH MAGIC!

IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME.

C-C-CALM DOWN, MURAKAMI!

OH, IT'S BACK TO NORMAL.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO!

WE HAVE TO FOOL HIM SOME-HOW.

GEN IS COMING TO CHECK OUR WORK LATER.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS.

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I HAD NO IDEA STONE STATUES WERE PURE WHITE.

Y-YEAH.

IT HAS BECOME SO CLEAN.

I WONDER IF ITS BELLY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THIS PROTRUDING.

HA HA HA ...

HOW DOES HE NOT REALIZE IT.

IT WAS POLISHED SO MUCH THAT IT CHANGED SHAPE!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WELL THEN, AS THANKS, YOU CAN HAVE THESE SNACKS AND DRINKS.

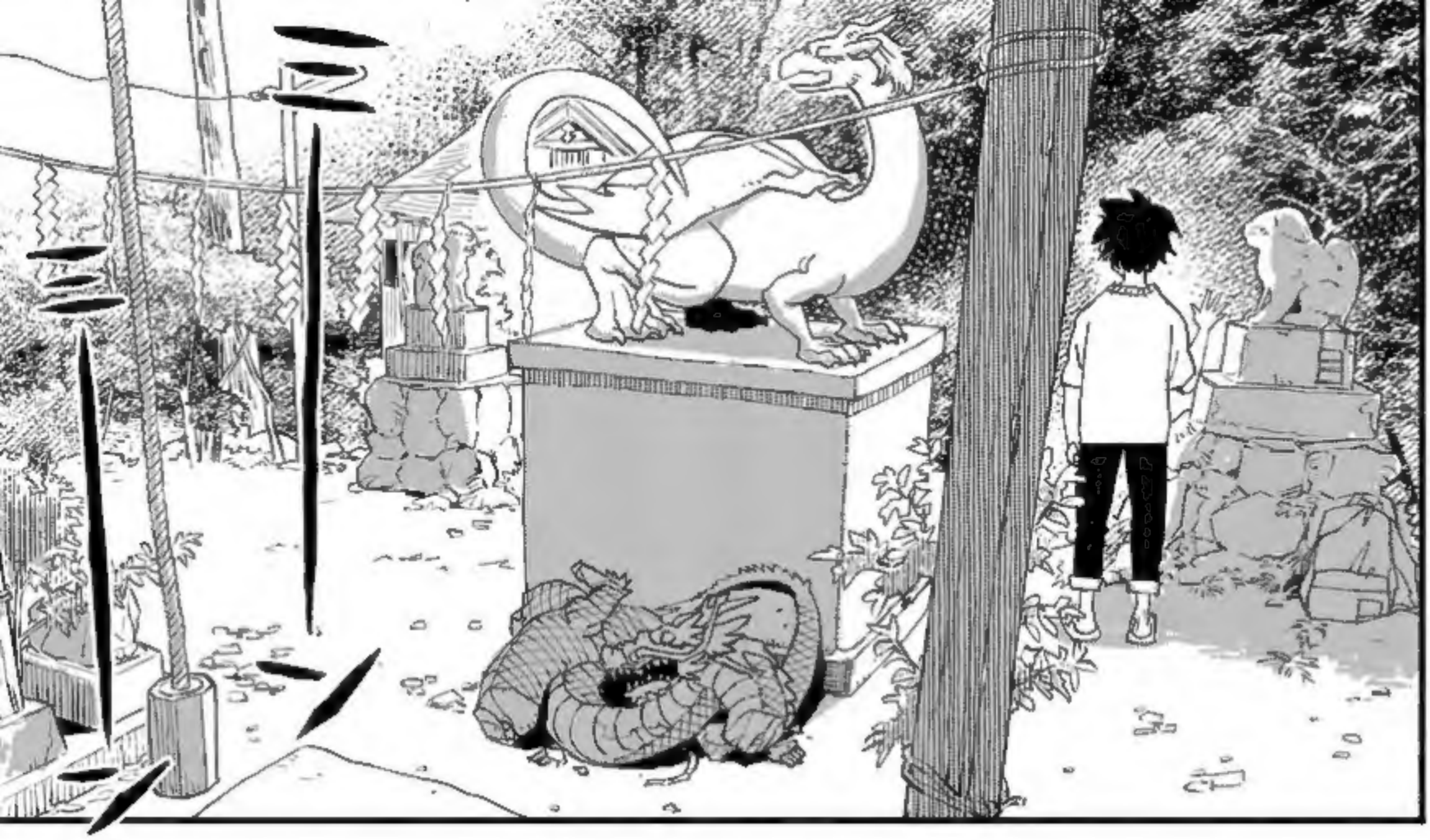
GET A GOOD REST, WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN LATER.

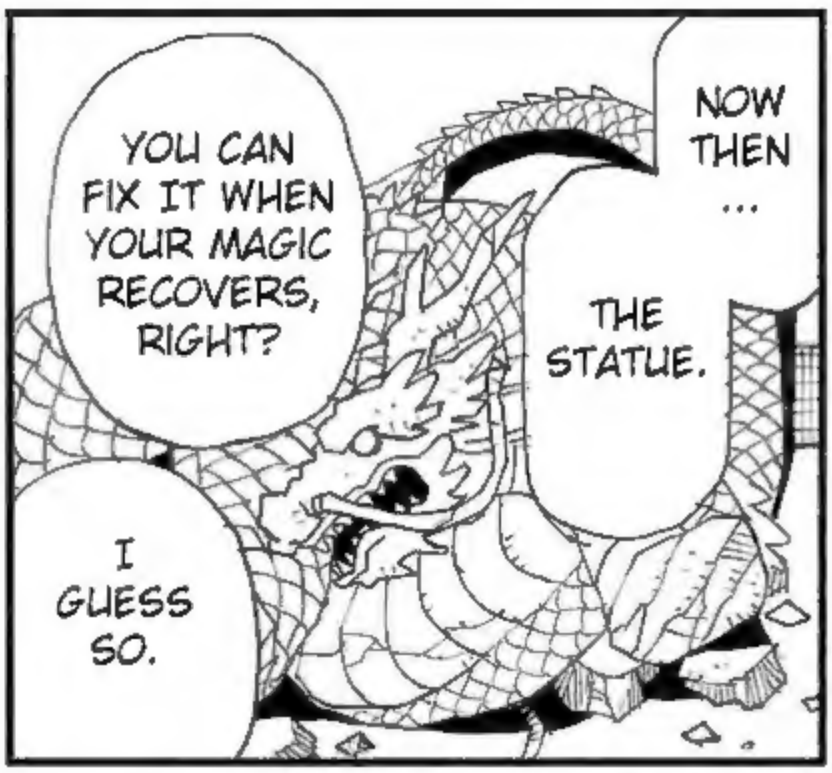
OH, I SEE.

AH.

SHE WAS TIRED, SO SHE WENT HOME FIRST.

SAY, WHERE'S BUBUSELA?




YOU CAN FIX IT WHEN YOUR MAGIC RECOVERS, RIGHT?
I GUESS SO.
NOW THEN ...
THE STATUE.

SHH.
HE'S NOT GONE YET.
THAT HUMAN SAID MY BELLY WAS PROTRUDING!

EVEN IF THERE WAS A DRAGON, IT'S A THING OF THE PAST.
YEAH, YOU COULD SAY THAT.
YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THE DRAGON GOD, BUT YOU BELIEVE IN THAT?
I HOPE WE WON'T FACE DIVINE PUNISH-MENT.

I DIDN'T HEAR AN APOLOGY FROM YOU.

I'VE ALREADY APOLOGIZED.

MAN, WE WILL HAVE TO CLEAN IT AGAIN AFTER REPAIRING IT.

I WANT TO GO HOME...